

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

CSC REGULATIONS REVISIONS
PUBLIC HEARING
12/13/11

COMMENTS OF THE EASTON CONSERVANCY TRUST, JUNE S. LEE, CHAIRPERSON
REGARDING AMENDMENTS REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE RULES OF PRACTICE:

I am June Lee, Chairperson of The Easton Conservancy Trust. Thank you, Chairman Stein and Siting Council members for permitting me to speak for Easton, parties and intervenors.

When Easton was faced with the threat of a proposed wireless transmission tower on an historic farm in the epicenter of our agrarian, historic and tourist magnet area in Easton, we did what all groups do. We organized, wrote letters, raised money and requested and received unequivocal support from the highest Connecticut officials. We spent countless hours researching all aspects of the relevant issues. We hired a skillful and experienced environmental lawyer. We have worked for three years to prevent this siting, exhausting our emotional and financial resources. The tower builder saw the strength of our arguments and delayed. Now they have returned with a tower proposal in a residential and farm area in the center of Easton. Our work begins again.

You know this process. You see it with every application. You know that this is a David and Goliath struggle. Citizens oppose a trillion dollar industry when challenging a wireless transmission tower application at the Siting Council. Now, you are considering procedures that will make it even harder for citizens to convince you that a site offered by a self-interested property owner and embraced by a carrier does not serve the community in any way. If you impose impossible procedural strictures, citizens must face you as another foe. They can never win, the deck is stacked against them and Connecticut is the loser, in beauty, character and the quality of life which is the reason we live here.

You could, however, act as a body that fairly and justly serves the people of Connecticut and repair a deeply flawed system.

Let's look at the way sites are chosen. They are offered by property owners willing to impose a blight on their neighbors. They have no care for their towns and monstrous towers become part of the landscape. We are considered a wealthy and progressive state. Is this exemplary town planning? Shouldn't we maintain a higher standard of managing a function critical to the quality of life in Connecticut?

Chairman Stein, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Wilenski, Mr. Tate, Attorney Bachman, Mr. Golembiewski, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Levesque, and Dr. Bell, you can effect superb town planning if you repair this process. Do not adopt strictures that punish parties and intervenors and side with business. Become a force for change in the siting of town infrastructure. Act to serve, not defeat the citizens of CT.

Thank-you on behalf of the Easton Conservancy Trust and myself, June Lee.